

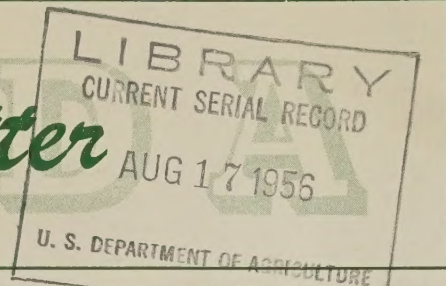
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OPEDA

Newsletter



ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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ROUNDUP ON LEGISLATION

As Congress adjourns, we hasten to report on completed legislation of interest to our members, and especially that which had OPEDA Council support. (See February Newsletter for legislative objectives.) The following is a quick and brief summary of items we believe of most interest. If there are other items in which you are interested, please let us know and we will try to give you an individual reply.

RETIREMENT: Johnston Bill (S.2875), and H.R. 7619. Principal provisions, as enacted: (1) Effective date - November 1. (2) Computation of annuities under the new law use a 1½% formula for 5 years of service, 1 3/4 % for another 5 years, and 2% for the remainder. Also, unchanged, is the formula by which one can multiply 5 years high average salary by 1%, then add \$25 and multiply the sum by years of service. (3) Thirty-year retirement - If a 30-year employee retires voluntarily before 60, the reduction would be 1/12th of a percent per month. (4) Survivorship Annuities - If an employee elects a survivorship annuity for wife or husband, the first \$2400 would be reduced 2½% and the rest 10%. Survivorship annuities for active employees are payable immediately, regardless of age, to widows and dependent widowers of deceased employees. Child survivorship annuities - Annuities will be \$600 per child (maximum of \$1800 for more than two) if one parent survives, and \$720 per child (maximum \$2160) if both are dead. (5) Disability annuities - The disabled annuitant will receive 40% of the 5-year high average salary or the annuity he would have earned if he had remained on the pay roll till 60, whichever is the lesser. (6) Involuntary Retirement - An involuntarily retired 20-year employee will draw an annuity at 50; a 25-year employee could draw it any age. The annuity would be reduced 1% for each year an employee was under 60, plus an additional 2% for each year under 55. Legislation providing executive salary increases was also embodied in S.2875, and the ceiling of such salaries was raised considerably, thus providing more opportunity for advancement for those in the higher classified grades.

A separate letter has been sent to all contributors to the Federal-State retirement educational fund. Briefly, the legislation (allowing retirement credit for service in joint Federal-State programs) failed of enactment because of Executive opposition. The fight to correct this inequity will be continued.

S.1915, permitting exchange of Federal employees with State Governments without loss of retirement and leave privileges, was passed.

Legislation protecting employees from loss of salaries when down-graded through no fault of their own was also passed.

OPEDA opposed legislation providing competitive wage rates for professional employees. This legislation did not pass.

While OPEDA was only one of a number of organizations supporting the foregoing legislation, we modestly believe that our contribution towards the final enactment is far greater than could be expected from an organization of our size. We worked diligently and constantly with Committee members of the House and Senate sponsoring this legislation.

OPEDA NEEDS MORE MEMBERS TO GIVE ADDED PRESTIGE TO THOSE WHO SPEAK FOR US!

(over)

BOX SCORE ON MEMBERSHIP

Agency	Total Membership August 1, 1956	New members in '56 (included in total)	LOST AND FOUND COLUMN
ACPS -----	19	7	Please notice, that although we FOUND 512 new members in 1956, we have also LOST approximately 800 who were on the rolls as 1955 members. A follow-up is still going on to see what happened to those members. We have found that some are now deceased; some have retired or left the Department. Some have moved and have not had their addresses changed with us. Which reminds us, PLEASE KEEP YOUR ADDRESS UP TO DATE!
AMS -----	568	67	
ARS -----	827	73	
ASU -----	47	4	
CEA -----	40	8	
CSS -----	77	5	
FAS -----	94	36	
FCA -----	30	8	
FCIC -----	18	8	
FCS -----	32	1	
FES -----	121	19	
FS -----	717	116	
F&D -----	23	0	
FHA -----	92	17	
REA -----	101	10	
SCS -----	854	133	
Paid up membership --	3,660	512	

OPEDA MEMBERS OF TEN YEARS OR MORE

Going through our membership records to make a count, we were very happy to find that, from the beginning, so many of our members have consistently believed in OPEDA's principles and objectives enough to stick with us year after year! We decided to publish the names of those who have been members since 1946 or earlier. If you think your name should be included but isn't, please let us know. The list will be continued in the next newsletter: (Note: D.C. includes both Washington and Beltsville members)

Carmelo Alemar (ARS-ret.), Mayaguez, P.R.; Bushrod Allin (AMS), D.C.; Myron S. Anderson (ARS), D.C.; Chas. M. Arthur (Inf.-ret.), D.C.; M.B. Arthur (FS), Milwaukee, Wis.; W.S. Atkinson (SCS), Syracuse, N.Y.; Harry Atwood (ARS), Columbus, O.; P.C. Avery (ARS), Mission, Tex.; R.H. Baechler (FS), Madison, Wis.; D.B. Bagnell (CEA), D.C.; F.E. Bailey (AMS), Yakima, Wash.; Carleton R. Ball (FES-ret.), D.C.; John S. Barnes (SCS), Berkeley, Calif.; Leverne E. Barnes (ARS), D.C.; T.H. Bartilson (ARS), D.C.; R.K. Beattie (ARS-ret.), D.C.; W.G. Beatty (SCS), Milton, Fla.; Jos. A. Becker (FAS), D.C.; Edw. Beglinger (FS), Madison, Wis.; G.Y. Bell (SCS), Columbus, O.; W.V. Benedict (FS), D.C.; C.A. Bennett (ARS), Leland, Miss.; C.W. Bennett (ARS), Salinas, Calif.; L.L. Bernhard (FS), San Fran., Calif.; Louise O. Bercaw (Lib.), D.C.; N.O. Berry (ARS), Harlingen, Tex.; G.A. Bidelman (AMS), Denver, Colo.; E.C. Bjorkland (SCS), Huron, S.D.; R.E. Blair (AMS), Sacramento, Calif.; C.B. Blickensderfer (SCS), Bradenton, Fla.; G.R. Blount (AMS), D.C.; S.W. Bondurant (SCS), Richmond, Va.; S.H. Boomer (ARS), N. Conway, N.H.; W.D. Bormuth (AMS), D.C.; H.L. Borst (ARS), Wooster, O.; C.J. Borum (AMS), Lansing, Mich.; H.G. Bradbury (FS), Belfast, Me.; J.F. Brandon (ARS), Akron, Colo.; Andrew Branda (FS), Ardmore, Pa.; Alfred C. Brittain (AMS), Columbus, Mo.; Abbie B. Brooks (ARS-ret.), D.C.; J.F. Brooks (FS), Atlanta, Ga.; C.B. Brown (SCS), D.C.; R.C. Brown (FS), Upper Darby, Pa.; Walworth Brown (ARS), D.C.; F.L. Browne (FS), Madison, Wis.; J.E. Browning (ARS), Homestead, Fla.; Margaret S. Bryant (Lib.), D.C.; T.S. Buie (SCS), Columbia, S.C.; R.O. Bulger (ARS), Minneapolis, Minn.; Chas. E. Burkhead (AMS), D.C.; D.R. Burnham (ARS-ret.), N.Mex.; F.D. Butcher (army-Calif.); Lillian I. Buttler (ARS), Yakima, Wash.

R.E. Campbell (ARS), Whittier, Calif.; Arvy Carnes (SCS), Auburn, Ala.; T.R. Chamberlin (ARS-ret.), Forest Grove, Ore.; T.B. Chambers (SCS), Spartanburg, S.C.; W.R. Chapline (FS-ret.), D.C.; C.M. Chapman (FS), Missoula, Mont.; A.W. Christensen (SCS), Red Cloud, Neb.; Chas. C. Clark (WB-ret.), D.C.; C.P. Clausen (ARS-ret.), Riverside, Calif.; B.S. Clayton (ret.) D.C.; W.K. Clore (ARS), Monterrey, Mex.; H.D. Cochran (FS), Milwaukee, Wis.; James Coker (CEA), D.C.; John R. Cole (ARS), Albany, Ga.; John S. Cole (ARS-ret.), D.C.; H.L. Collins (AMS), Topeka, Kans.; Alonzo C. Cook (ARS), D.C.; Lindley G. Cook (FES), New Brunswick, N.J.; Wm. C. Cook (ARS), Walla Walla, Wash.; M.R. Cooper (ARS), D.C.; R.U. Cotter (ARS), St. Paul, Minn.; R.W. Cowlin (FS), Portland, Ore.; G.W. Craddock, Jr. (FS), Ogden, Utah; W.A. Craft (ARS), Ames, Iowa; R.B. Craig (FS), D.C.; F.A. Cummings (AMS) Wauwabosa, Wis.; Jos. A. Cummings (F&D-ret.), Dorchester, Mass.; Hilda S. Cuniff (SCS), Key West, Fla.; H.L. Cupples (ARS), D.C. Arnold S. Dahl (CSS), D.C.; H.W. Davis (SCS), Hammondsport, N.Y.; Mayhew H. Davis (FS), Albuquerque, N.M.; Russell E. Davis (ARS), D.C.; W.A. Dayton (FS), D.C.; A.P. Dean (FS), D.C.; H.S. Dean (ARS), D.C.; M.J. DeBerti (ARS), Brookville, Pa.; E.L. Demmon (FS), Asheville, N.C.; S.B. Detwiler, Jr. (ARS), D.C.; Wm. DeYoung (SCS), Madison, Wis.; L.M. Dickerson (SCS), Tappahannock, Va.; H.C. Diener (SCS), D.C.; J.F. Dillon (SCS), Grand Forks, N.D.; Maurice Donnelly (ARS), Riverside, Calif.; H.A. Donovan (ARS), D.C.; P.B. Dowden (FS), New Haven, Conn.; F.C. Driver (ARS), St. Paul, Minn.; E.W. Dunman (ARS), Leland, Miss.; J.C. Dykes (SCS), D.C.